

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, XM, PINT

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT NOON BRIEFING AUGUST 2 19:

Q: HODDING, THE POST SAID LAST MONDAY, IN ITS
"PERSONALITIES" SECTION, THAT THE IMAGE CHILE HAS ABROAD
DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO THE REALITY THAT ONE HAS BY VISITING
THAT COUNTRY DUE TO LACK OF INFORMATION. I WONDER IF
MR. TODMAN SAW SOMETHING THAT THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION DIDN'T.

A: YOU'RE REFERRING TO A QUOTE THAT WAS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM?

Q: YES.

A: NO.

Q: IT'S NOT INACCURATE?
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A: NO, I'M NOT SUGGESTING THERE IS ANY MISQUOTE ON THAT.
I DON'T THINK THAT HIS STATEMENT REFLECTED ANY PARTICULAR

NEW ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN CHILE. AS I UNDERSTAND
IT, HE WAS ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO THE PUBLIC IMAGE THAT
CHILE HAS GENERALLY ABROAD, AND THAT IMAGE WE THINK IS

SOMEWHAT DISTORTED AND SOMEWHAT OUT OF DATE, BUT WE DO REMAIN DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE. AS I HAVE NOTED FROM HERE OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, AND AS WE HAVE NOTED ELSEWHERE, THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS OF SOME IMPROVEMENT, AND WE CERTAINLY HOPE THAT THESE SIGNS, THESE IMPROVEMENTS, THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE.

Q: IN WHAT SENSE IS IT DISTORTED?

A: SIMPLY IN THAT IT DOES NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT SOME OF THESE CHANGES, THAT IS TO SAY, FOR INSTANCE, THAT IN 1977 THERE HAS BEEN A SHARP DECLINE IN THE REPORTS OF UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES. LAST WEEK THEY DID ANNOUNCE THEY WERE ABOLISHING AND TRANSFERRING SOME OF THE FUNCTIONS OF DINA. I WANT TO BALANCE THAT, OF COURSE, WITH THE FACT THAT WE DO REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, BUT WE HAVE NOTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO NOTE, I HOPE, A TREND TOWARD INCREASED LIBERALIZATION OF THE SITUATION.

Q: HODDING, IS THE SITUATION IN CHILE WORSE THAN IN ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF LATIN AMERICA?

A: IS THE SITUATION WORSE THAN IN ABOUT --

Q: IN CHILE THAN IN THE REST, MOST LATIN AMERICAN
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COUNTRIES?

A: I'M REALLY NOT GOING TO GO INTO A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THAT COUNTRY AS OPPOSED TO ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS OR OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. I THINK EACH STATEMENT ON EACH COUNTRY HAS TO STAND ON ITS OWN MERITS.

Q: HODDING, PRESIDENT BANZER OF BOLIVIA SAID WHEN HE TOOK OVER, I THINK AROUND '69, THAT HE WAS GOING TO HOLD ELECTIONS A FEW MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE COUP. HE POSTPONED THAT FIRST ELECTION. THEN, IN '71, HE SAID HE WOULD HOLD ELECTIONS; HE AGAIN POSTPONED. HE THEN SET THEM FOR '74 AND POSTPONED THEM AGAIN, AND NOW HE IS MAKING NEW PROMISES. DOES IT WORRY YOU THAT THIS ANXIETY TO SEE IMPROVEMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA WILL LEAD YOU TO SEE AS IMPROVEMENTS THINGS THAT ARE SIMPLY FOR EXTERNAL CONSUMPTION?

A: THAT'S A FAIR QUESTION. THE RESPONSE IS SIMPLY THIS, THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID, I HOPE RATHER CAREFULLY, THAT WHILE WE ACCEPT THE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHANGES, OF LIBERALIZATIONS, AS BEING INDICATIONS OF EFFORTS, THAT WE DO WANT

TO SEE THEM EFFECTED; AND THAT WELCOMING AN ANNOUNCEMENT IS NOT QUITE THE SAME THING AS PREDICTING IT IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE. IN THE ABSENCE OF MOVEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN PREDICTED OR PROMISED, WE WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY AT THE TIME. CLEARLY, WHAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN IS ACTUAL MOVEMENT IN ANY COUNTRY IN WHICH A HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, AS WE SEE IT, HAS BEEN UNFORTUNATE, OR ONE IN WHICH THERE HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF HUMAN BEINGS. NOW, WE WILL HAVE TO SEE IN EACH CASE HOW IT DEVELOPS.

Q: WHAT IS THE IMPLICATION OF THESE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR YOUR POLICY?

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A: WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF IT?

Q: YES.

A: I THINK WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT WE WOULD SPEAK OUT ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHEN IT SEEMED TO BE OF WORTH IN TRYING TO IMPROVE THEM AND WE HAVE ALSO SAID -- AND I THINK WE SHOULD PROPERLY NOTE -- THAT WHEN IMPROVEMENTS ARE MADE, THAT WE WILL ALSO SPEAK ON THOSE.

Q: BUT I MEAN WHAT IS THE IMPLICATION FOR MILITARY AID, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, EXPORT LICENSES?

A: TO BEGIN WITH, I THINK PART OF MY ANSWER JUST NOW SPEAKS TO THAT QUESTION, AND THAT IS THAT OBVIOUSLY, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MOVES HAVE EFFECT ON OUR DECISIONS, BUT INsofar AS OUR AID PROGRAMS AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE, IN PARTICULAR, IS CONCERNED, WE DO NOT HAVE ANY SHIFT AT THIS POINT IN OUR POLICIES IN THIS AREA, WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO CHILE AND OTHERS. THERE, CLEARLY, WHAT IS MEASURED IS RESULTS. CHRISTOPHER

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